

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A wireless access point (AP) operative to perform authentication for both legacy 802.11x and 802.11i wireless stations, wherein:

if an 802.11i wireless station is encountered by said AP:[,]

~~filtering is performed until the AP performs~~ a 802.11i association and authentication ~~is completed~~;

an 802.1x enabled switch is accessed for the 802.11i wireless station and traffic from the 802.11i wireless station passes through the switch without filtering; and

if a legacy 802.11x wireless station is encountered by said AP, ~~allowing the said~~ wireless station ~~to initiate~~ initiates a login procedure with a Public Access Control gateway (PAC); ~~and~~;

~~if the 802.11x wireless station is not authenticated by the PAC, filter all messages from the wireless station.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The AP according to claim 4, wherein:

if a legacy 802.11x wireless station is encountered, in order to accomplish login, a PAC timer is set and traffic is forwarded by said AP to and from the PAC using encapsulation, and transmitting a message from said AP to said PAC indicating that the wireless station needs authentication, said PAC operative to transmit a web based login page to the legacy 802.11x wireless station.

6. (Currently Amended) The AP according to claim 5, wherein said AP waits for a message from the PAC indicative of successful ~~authorisation~~ authorization of the legacy

~~802.11x~~ wireless station and, once received, allows traffic to and from the legacy
~~802.11x~~ wireless station without filtering.

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